

The Rosetta Stone

BRIGHTSTAR 01/02

Cairo West Air Base, Egypt

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 1

September 18, 2001

Briefs

Top 3 meeting

There will be a Top 3 meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. in the dining hall. Contact SMSgt. Pete Tetrault, 75th Air Expeditionary Group first sergeant for more information.

Religious studies class

There will be a Christianity-Islamic comparative Bible study class Thursday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel Tent. Contact one of the chaplains to find out about future Bible study courses or to suggest a topic. The next class will be studying Egypt in the Bible.



Photo by: SrA Chrissy Szczepanski

Technical Sergeant Patrick Smith, 75th Expeditionary Logistics Squadron, SrA Charles McQueen, 75th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and Master Sergeant David Vassar, 75th Expeditionary Services Squadron, sang at Friday's ecumenical memorial service.

Time to reflect, mourn terrorist attacks on US

By 2nd Lt. Kimberly Melchor
Cairo West Public Affairs

Shortly before 10 a.m. Friday approximately 200 people gathered together to officially post the American and Egyptian flags in front of the commander's office and declare the base "officially open for business."

Colonel J.C. Dodson, 75th Air Expeditionary Group commander, said the flags were an important symbol for the base and for the people. Posting them would help bring a sense of purpose and understanding of the group's mission to the forefront of everyone's minds, he said.

Colonel Dodson reminded the group how "we need to work hard to prepare

the base to allow for any course of action we may take." He was referring to the recent terrorist attacks that took place in the U.S. Tuesday.

"When you are unsure about what you're doing or why you're here, you can always go over to the Flag and let it guide you back to what we are all about as Americans and what our purpose is.

"We have to focus on the importance the American Flag has to the entire world. We are the only nation whose flag is a symbol of peace and justice. We, the military, are the mechanism that can carry out that justice," Col. Dodson said.

We need to move beyond this incident and focus on preparing the base to sustain air operations and be able to carry

out any course of action we will take.

The next action is to proceed with BRIGHTSTAR 01/02. The extent to which the exercise will be carried out will be outlined soon.

Preceding the Flag posting, the group gathered for an ecumenical memorial service to mourn the loss of life experienced from Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

Father Ernie Berthelette spoke about the many feelings that may be going through everyone's heads after hearing about Tuesday's events. "These feelings may be feelings of sadness, loss, uncertainty and despair, but when people start having feelings of anger and revenge,

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We built this city

By 2nd Lt. Kimberly Melchor
Cairo West Public Affairs

From the power outages overnight, to ensuring everyone has hot water for a fresh shower in the wee hours of the morning, the 75th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron from Hill Air Force Base, Utah responds to base support needs and faces the many challenges of creating and sustaining the mini-town of more than 600 residents affectionately referred to as “home.”

“We practice for this year-round on a smaller scale, but these days it is rare to have the opportunity to build up a base of this size from the ground, up,” said 1st Lt. Scott Bole, 75th ECES commander. For Bole, it’s his first time deploying to a bare base and having to start from scratch, but that didn’t stop him and his team of 95 civil engineering technicians who came together from Hill AFB, Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C., Holloman AFB, N.M., Mountain Home AFB, Idaho and several bases across the Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

Most of the team is from Hill, but the group has brought in the team members from the other bases into what he calls “a seamless melting of forces.”

The ADVON, or initial team arrived Aug. 31 and immediately began offloading more than 100 flatbeds of tents, vehicles and equipment comprising the base support deployment package known as Harvest Falcon. The initial crew was comprised of 11 civil engineers, security forces and fuels personnel and a small command element.

The equipment had to first be signed over and allocated to the appropriate areas depending on its function in order for set-up to begin. After allocating their equipment to the proper locations, the team was able to build up the base to sustain 900-plus people within three days and they were able to maintain their workload continually ahead of schedule.

“We’ve worked together, averaging from 15-18 hours a day with little rest in between, over the last 14 days,” Bole said. Two weeks were originally allocated to complete the entire bare base set-up. This may seem like a substantial amount of time to set up facilities on a relatively small piece of ground, but the undertaking may be far more complex than is visible to the eye.

The initial task at hand for the civil engineering team was to bulldoze and grade the tent city area to begin building the area. The team had to completely re-layout the area from its original plan developed during the initial site visit in June. “We had to work with the Egyptian military to modify our set-up and throughout the entire process they have been extremely gracious in supporting everything we have done,” said Bole.



The original exercise tasking was to set up nearly 150 tents, and to provide water and electricity to all users in tent city and another worksite on the other side of the base. Water was a big issue, although there was a well on base and water lines installed, some had to be replaced and the entire line checked for leaks. The water crews adapted to several operational constraints to start up and maintain the four-plus miles of piping required to distribute 80,000 gallons of water to the dining tent, laundry and shower areas.

While construction on tent city continued the team began to tackle its next challenge of providing enough electricity to light up a small city with the potential to grow to 1,200 or more people. Everything on base is powered by a series of generators that run on diesel and jet fuel, with a set of back-up generators standing by in case the primary generators fail.

The planning for set-up and base support for BRIGHTSTAR 01/02 exercise has involved the 75th Civil Engineering Squadron since December to set up everything from lights, air conditioning, waterlines, waste, city planning and structural design. This is the first time Air Force Material Command has participated as the lead group in an exercise of this magnitude.

With all the of challenges the team has faced in its first couple weeks, the most difficult challenge Bole said was “convincing everyone we were in Egypt.” Many of the initial crew had difficulty acclimating to the time change, the culture and getting settled into a routine.

The civil engineering team here is comprised of fire protection, explosive ordnance disposal, structural crews, readiness, electrical power production, HVAC, equipment operators, utilities crews for water waste, entomologists, force managers, customer service, engineering assistants and bare base management.

Takin' care of business



Photos by: SrA Chrissy Szczepanski

(From Top, clockwise) Senior Airman Jason Deorio, 75th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, checks ID cards at the gate, (below right) Senior Airman Joshua Ratcliffe (left) and Airman First Class Clayton Wiggins, 75th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, set up the Tropo Satellite Support Radio to carry voice and data transmissions to the communications squadron. (Bottom left) Airman First Class Chritine Lewis, MSgt. Rey Santacruz and TSgt. Cliff Niskala, 75th Expeditionary Services Squadron, prepare coffee in the dining hall kitchen. (Left) TSgt. Jonathan Zimmerman, 75th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron fire department checks out a fire truck.



BRIGHT STAR Moves Forward

Men and Women of “Qui Web”

We have all gone through an incredible two weeks of sadness, fear, excitement and warmth. My words can't express how proud I am of your accomplishments and your professional approach to our mission. I'm happy to tell you that we've received direction to continue BRIGHT STAR and are proceeding on the same schedule that we originally established. We all know that reaching the original schedule's milestones will be challenging as airlift and resource flow have been changed. We must remain flexible and creative in order to meet our objectives with less resources than were originally planned. However, we also must never compromise our force protection standards or the safety of our people. I'm asking we all focus on the same mission that we originally came here to accomplish—build and maintain a

bare base capable of sustaining flight operations. This means that despite the other activities occurring at home and around the world, we must remain concentrated on our objectives. BRIGHT STAR is a critical exercise that allows the world to see our capacity to plan, organize and execute operations as a coalition. As the forthcoming mission of our nation's military is defined, other countries around the world are watching our forces in BRIGHT STAR and witnessing our resolve to stand together as a coalition. What lies ahead for us is a tremendous challenge, but from what I've already seen of your capabilities to work together and do great things—YOU ARE READY!

Colonel J.C. Dodson
Commander

U.S. Postal Service outlines mailing regulations

The United States Postal Service is not accepting mail stateside from overseas locations at this time. People stationed at Cairo West can send mail now and it will be delivered when the USPS begins accepting overseas mail again. Brightstar participants will begin receiving mail when airlift to the area is reactivated. Letters and parcels must be addressed in the format below to ensure mail delivery is not further delayed.

Name: John Doe

Location/Unit: BS-01 CW/Deployed Unit

Area/zip code: APO, AE 09874

People must tell their family members the name of their deployed unit to include in the mailing address. Incoming mail will be distributed through appointed squadron representatives.

Outbound mail can be deposited in one of the drop boxes

located in front of the K-SPAN and in tent city. The post office does have postage for sale at this time, the mail must already have the appropriate postage. The Military Postal Service, which only delivers to other APO and FPO addresses, is available and does not require postage. Senders must write “MPS” in the upper right-hand corner in place of the postage.

Cairo West mailing restrictions:

No alcohol of any kind, no pornographic materials

Packages no larger than 42 inches in length or 72 inches in length and girth combined

No currencies, currency or precious metals in their raw unmanufactured state.

No large commercial products such as TVs, VCRs, etc.

(US Postal Service - Cairo West Air Base , Epypt)

Commander's Kudos

Congratulations to the people who received a commander's coin from Colonel J.C. Dodson, 75th Air Expeditionary Group commander this week for outstanding performance:

Master Sergeant **James Barker**,

75th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (Moody Air Force Base, Ge.); TSgt. **Jack Hayes**, 75th ESFS (Eglin AFB, Fla.); SrA **Penni Teague**, 75th ESFS (Little Rock AFB, Ak); SrA **Ann Mitchell**, 75th Expeditionary Services

Squadron (Mountain Home AFB, Idaho); SSgt (sel) **Melissa Gonzales**, 75th ESS (Brooks AFB, Texas); SrA **Justo Espinoza**, 75th ESS (Ramstein AB, Germany); and TSgt. **Tom Green**, 75th ESS (Mountain Home AFB, Idaho).

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that's when we need to check on them.”

Father Berthelette spoke about seeking justice the right way, not acting out of revenge. He said if people can grow from these acts, they will be able to carry out justice properly.

Master Sergeant David Vassar, 75th Expeditionary Services Squadron, TSgt. Patrick Smith, 75th Expeditionary Lo-

gistics Squadron and SrA Charles McQueen, 75th ESS sang Amazing Grace and How Great Thou Art to open and close the service.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Moriaty, 75th AEG deputy commander, 1st Lt. Jessica Joyner, 75th AEG executive officer and Vassar read a selection of Bible scriptures for the service.

The Back Page

Community Activities Center News

Friday- Spades tournament at 8 p.m.

Sept. 28- Checkers tournament at 8 p.m.

The community activities center is located in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation revettement.

9-1 Dining Facility Menu

Monday- Dinner: Spaghetti with meatballs and green beans.

Tuesday- Breakfast: ham slices, eggs, potatoes and grits. Dinner: Beef strip, rice and corn.

Wednesday- Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, creamed beef, peaches and cereal.. Dinner: ham, mixed vegetables, pork and beans.

Thursday- Breakfast: pork sausage, eggs, waffles with blueberry and grits. Dinner: chili, rice and corn

Friday- Breakfast: creamed beef, omelet, potatoes and grits. Dinner: chicken breast, taters, stuffing and peas.

Saturday- To be determined

Sunday- To be determined

Monday- To be determined

Website for families

Families can find out information about the Brightstar deployment by accessing a Website especially for families of deployed military members. The website will include photos, stories, information about the deployment and exercise, awards and recognition and general news. People can visit the Website at www.brightstar-families.org.

Wanted

Anyone who has barber equipment to donate can bring it to the lodging office.

Anyone who can sew stripes on a uniform contact the lodging office.

Lost and found

Lost something? Found something? Stop by the lodging tent to make the connection.

Tent swapping

If someone needs to move to a different tent, they must have contact SMSgt. Pete Tetrault, 75th Aerospace Expeditionary Group first sergeant.

Handy Egyptian Phrases

Hello (Peace be upon you)

How are you?

Do you speak English?

Goodbye (until we meet again)

Thank you

Please

Yes

No

A-Salaam aleekum

Kayf al haal?

Tattakallan Inqliizi

Ma'a as-salaama

Shukran

Men fudlick

Na'am or Ayawa

La or Mish

Egyptian Trivia

Here's a little bit of trivia on Egypt to familiarize people with the geography, customs, language and religion of Egyptians. A trivia quiz will be posted weekly. The answers can be found at the bottom of the page.

1. How large is Egypt in square miles?
2. How long is the Nile River?
3. When was the Suez Canal built?
4. What is the population of Egypt?

The Suez Canal

The Suez Canal, built between 1859 and 1869 to link the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, was one of the major construction projects of the 19th century and the first in a series of similar links that would revolutionize the world geography of trade. It covers a distance of over 100 miles between Port Said and Suez, crossing the sands of the northern coastal region.

(Source: EGYPT-Knopf Guides)

The Rosetta Stone

This bilingual decree by Ptolemy V Epiphanes (196 BC) was discovered in a Rosetta in 1799 by a French officer of the Egypt Expedition. It was written in hieroglyphs, demotic script and Greek.

From the text of the Rosetta Stone, written in three types of script, Jean-Francois Champollion was able to draw up a list of the names of foreign rulers, noting that the signs used were exclusively phonetic. By applying his method to the more ancient pharaohs, he managed to read the names of Teutmose and Ramesses and realized that the system consisted of both phonetic and ideographic symbols.

(Source: EGYPT-Knopf Guides)

Trivia answers:

1. 386,900 square miles

2. 4,160 miles

3. The Suez Canal was first proposed November 15, 1854. Construction began April 25, 1859 and was completed ten years later November 17, 1869.

4. 60 million in Egypt, 14 million in Cairo